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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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08/520,079

08/28/1995

SHUNPEI YAMAZAKI

1321

22204

7590

12/27/2006

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EXAMINER

RICHARDS, N DREW

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2815

MAIL DATE

DELIVERY MODE

12/27/2006

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

2

Advisory Action
Before the Filing of an Appeal Brief

Application No.

08/520,079

Applicant(s)

YAMAZAKI ET AL.

Examiner

N. Drew Richards

Art Unit

2815

--The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

THE REPLY FILED 11 December 2006 FAILS TO PLACE THIS APPLICATION IN CONDITION FOR ALLOWANCE.

1. ☒ The reply was filed after a final rejection, but prior to or on the same day as filing a Notice of Appeal. To avoid abandonment of this application, applicant must timely file one of the following replies: (1) an amendment, affidavit, or other evidence, which places the application in condition for allowance; (2) a Notice of Appeal (with appeal fee) in compliance with 37 CFR 41.31; or (3) a Request for Continued Examination (RCE) in compliance with 37 CFR 1.114. The reply must be filed within one of the following time periods:

- a) ☒ The period for reply expires 4 months from the mailing date of the final rejection.
b) ☐ The period for reply expires on: (1) the mailing date of this Advisory Action, or (2) the date set forth in the final rejection, whichever is later. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of the final rejection.

Examiner Note: If box 1 is checked, check either box (a) or (b). ONLY CHECK BOX (b) WHEN THE FIRST REPLY WAS FILED WITHIN TWO MONTHS OF THE FINAL REJECTION. See MPEP 706.07(f).

Extensions of time may be obtained under 37 CFR 1.136(a). The date on which the petition under 37 CFR 1.136(a) and the appropriate extension fee have been filed is the date for purposes of determining the period of extension and the corresponding amount of the fee. The appropriate extension fee under 37 CFR 1.17(a) is calculated from: (1) the expiration date of the shortened statutory period for reply originally set in the final Office action; or (2) as set forth in (b) above, if checked. Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of the final rejection, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

NOTICE OF APPEAL

2. ☐ The Notice of Appeal was filed on _____. A brief in compliance with 37 CFR 41.37 must be filed within two months of the date of filing the Notice of Appeal (37 CFR 41.37(a)), or any extension thereof (37 CFR 41.37(e)), to avoid dismissal of the appeal. Since a Notice of Appeal has been filed, any reply must be filed within the time period set forth in 37 CFR 41.37(a).

AMENDMENTS

3. ☐ The proposed amendment(s) filed after a final rejection, but prior to the date of filing a brief, will not be entered because
(a) ☐ They raise new issues that would require further consideration and/or search (see NOTE below);
(b) ☐ They raise the issue of new matter (see NOTE below);
(c) ☐ They are not deemed to place the application in better form for appeal by materially reducing or simplifying the issues for appeal; and/or
(d) ☐ They present additional claims without canceling a corresponding number of finally rejected claims.

NOTE: _____. (See 37 CFR 1.116 and 41.33(a)).

4. ☐ The amendments are not in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121. See attached Notice of Non-Compliant Amendment (PTOL-324).
5. ☐ Applicant's reply has overcome the following rejection(s): _____.
6. ☐ Newly proposed or amended claim(s) _____ would be allowable if submitted in a separate, timely filed amendment canceling the non-allowable claim(s).
7. ☒ For purposes of appeal, the proposed amendment(s): a) ☒ will not be entered, or b) ☐ will be entered and an explanation of how the new or amended claims would be rejected is provided below or appended.
The status of the claim(s) is (or will be) as follows:
Claim(s) allowed: _____.
Claim(s) objected to: _____.
Claim(s) rejected: 73-116, 123-141 and 143-155.
Claim(s) withdrawn from consideration: _____.

AFFIDAVIT OR OTHER EVIDENCE

8. ☐ The affidavit or other evidence filed after a final action, but before or on the date of filing a Notice of Appeal will not be entered because applicant failed to provide a showing of good and sufficient reasons why the affidavit or other evidence is necessary and was not earlier presented. See 37 CFR 1.116(e).
9. ☐ The affidavit or other evidence filed after the date of filing a Notice of Appeal, but prior to the date of filing a brief, will not be entered because the affidavit or other evidence failed to overcome all rejections under appeal and/or appellant fails to provide a showing of good and sufficient reasons why it is necessary and was not earlier presented. See 37 CFR 41.33(d)(1).
10. ☐ The affidavit or other evidence is entered. An explanation of the status of the claims after entry is below or attached.

REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION/OTHER

11. ☒ The request for reconsideration has been considered but does NOT place the application in condition for allowance because:
See Continuation Sheet.
12. ☐ Note the attached Information Disclosure Statement(s). (PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s). _____.
13. ☒ Other: See Continuation Sheet.


N. DREW RICHARDS
PRIMARY EXAMINER

Continuation of 11. does NOT place the application in condition for allowance because: Applicant's arguments have been considered but are not persuasive. Applicant points out that Zhang's method does not perform laser irradiation while heating as in applicant's invention and thus Zhang yields crystalline semiconductor films and TFT's having different characteristics. This is not persuasive. Though Zhang's process for forming the single crystal silicon regions have minor differences than applicant's method, the end result is a single crystal, monodomain region in which the channel is formed. No evidence has been provided that the monodomain region formed in Zhang will have different characteristics than in the instant invention. In fact, figures 5 and 6 of applicant's specification provide evidence that a monodomain TFT has the claimed spin density and mobility.

Applicant further argues that the Ohtani and Yamazaki references do establish the inherency of grain boundaries in the channel region of Zhang. As previously discusses, this is not persuasive. Ohtani and Yamazaki use different crystallization techniques and processes in forming their crystalline regions than the technique and process used by Zhang. Yamazaki and Ohtani both use a single heating or annealing step. This single heating step is different than the crystallization process used by Zhang since Zhang performs two heating steps, one prior to final crystallization and one during final crystallization. Thus, the different processes of Ohtani and Yamazaki do not prove that the different process of Zhang will result in grain boundaries in the channel region.

Applicant further argues that since the process of the instant invention and the process of Zhang are different, Zhang will not result in the claimed spin density. This is not persuasive. First, no evidence has been provided that the spin density of Zhang will be different than that claimed. Second, no evidence has been provided that the spin density is dependent on the particular process used in forming the monodomain region. Third, applicant's figure 5 indicate that the spin density of a monodomain TFT is 1×10^{15} - 1×10^{17} . Since Zhang teaches forming a monodomain TFT it is expected that its spin density would be the same as that indicated in applicant's figure 5.

Continuation of 13. Other: Applicant's IDS filed 8/25/06 has been placed in the file but has not been considered by the Examiner. The IDS contains references that have no related certification statement under 37 CFR 1.97(e).